

# **NEWPORT BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **SMOKE ALARMS**

More than half of all fatal home fires occur at night during the sleeping hours. By waking people before they are trapped or overcome by smoke, smoke alarms can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 50%. Smoke alarms should be installed outside the sleeping area and on every level of your home. Alarms should be tested once a month and the batteries changed twice a year. In addition, any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old should be replaced with a new one.

#### 1. Where can we buy a home smoke alarm?

Home smoke alarms are widely available in store locally, including drug and discount stores, hardware and home improvement centers, department stores, and even some supermarkets.

#### 2. How affordable are smoke alarms?

Smoke alarms today can be found in the price range of about \$8 to \$20. Paying more for you smoke alarm may not necessarily increase your level of protection. Generally, the more expensive smoke alarms have additional features such as lights, combinations aspects, or long lasting batteries, etc.

3. What should we look for when choosing a smoke alarm? All smoke alarms used in California must be listed by the California State Fire Marshal. The seal of the California State Fire Marshal should appear on the packaging.

The circle with the letters "U.L." ( Underwriters Laboratories listing) should appear either on the package or on the detector

### **Newport Beach Fire Department**

www.nbfd.net

Fire Business 949-644-3104 Fire or Medical Emergency 9-1-1



# **SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!**

- **4. Where should smoke alarms be located?** Smoke alarms should be placed on the ceiling outside bedrooms. If your bedrooms are separated, one smoke alarm should be placed outside of each bedroom area. Two-story homes should have a smoke alarm downstairs in the living area and another at the top of the stairs.
- **5.** Are there locations where smoke alarms should not be placed? Smoke alarms should not be placed in kitchens, garages, bathrooms, on walls more that 12 inches from the ceiling, in corners, or too near heaters, vents fireplaces, etc.
- 6. Why does the Newport Beach Fire Department regard smoke alarms as necessary? In most residences, smoke alarms are now required by law. However, the most important reason is that they are proven lifesavers. Also, the early-warning advantage of smoke alarms helps to ensure there should be time to get everyone out safely, and gives the firefighters the "early alarm" edge that helps to reduce the extent of property damage.

#### 7. What is required for smoke alarm maintenance?

Test your smoke alarm(s) monthly and dust lightly when you test it.

Change your smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring and always when you first hear the battery-low "chirp".

In homes with hard wired (electric) smoke alarms, a battery-powered back-up smoke alarm is recommended.

Once a home smoke alarm is activated, the next step is to activate a "home escape plan."